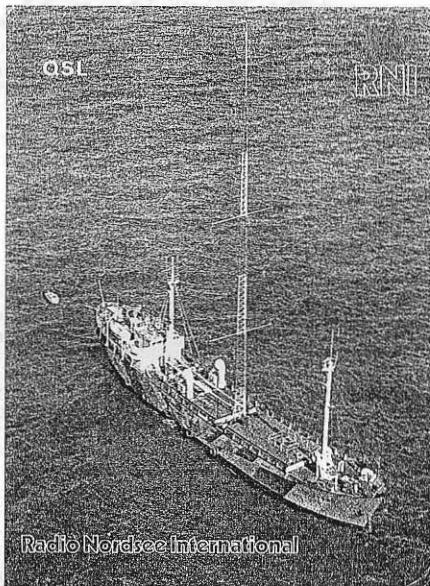


The Monthly A·C·E

*The Official Bulletin of the Association of Clandestine
Radio Enthusiasts*

Since 1982 • December 2002



Ah, remember the golden days of offshore
pirates, CIA clandestines, and their really cool
QSLs??

The Managing Editor's Page

Harry Helms

P. O. Box 335, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556-0335

E-mail: ak6c@earthlink.net

This month we say goodbye to Tom Severt, who has been the editor of the "Covert Comms" columns for the past several years. We thank Tom for all of his hard work on behalf of ACE! If you are interested in numbers stations and the sort of illegal/bootleg radio Tom describes in his farewell column, why not take over his slot? Drop John Arthur an e-mail if you're interested?

If you'd like to get up-to-the-minute news of pirate radio activity, why not subscribe to the ACE pirate radio mailing list? There's nothing like getting a top on a pirate station while it's still on their air! To subscribe, just send a BLANK e-mail to PirateRadio-subscribe@topica.com. Since the list is managed by yours truly, you know it will be a class act all the way!

Remember that I'll be relinquishing my duties as ACE publisher after next issue. Are you interested in taking over? If so, drop John Arthur a line! It only takes a few hours each month, and you get a copy of the bulletin before anyone else does!

I'll be away at the end of December, so the January issue will likely not hit the mail until January 3 or 4. If the next issue is a little late, don't be alarmed. Be sure to report your DX to the appropriate column editor. Merry Christmas/Happy Hanukah/Happy New Year/Rational Winter Solstice/whatever the hell you celebrate!

73,

HARRY

FRN THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DIALOGS December 2002

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130
Email: lreynolds@spmcop.net
ICQ# 60166326/4139354
(Next deadline for submissions: December 18th, 2002)

LATE LOGS

None

FROM ACROSS THE POND

None

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Captain Morgan (*FRW/ACE*)

- 10/28/02, 0050-0133*, 6950A – an eclectic mix with "Monster Mash", the "Addams Family" theme tune and Garth Brooks. (*WS-TN 444*)
- 11/06/02, 0244-0308, 6950A – mx – "Walking On The Sun", "Tim Passages", "Mama Told Me Not To Come". (*JS-NE*)
- 11/18/02, 0034-0114, 6950A – mx – Boogie Shoes? (*DC-IN 312*)

K2000 (None)

- 10/23/02, 2334+, 6925A – rebroadcast of an old K2000 show featuring the trial of John T. Arthur and DX Smartyline. (*JS-NE 222*)

KIPM (*Elkhorn*)

- 10/26/02, 0056-0154* 6953U – the estimable Mister Maxwell with "The Twin Poles of Eternity." Eating gazelles. (*FM-NH 322*) (*AF 433*) (*WS-TN 444*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/26/02, 0154-0254+, 6955U – "Final Descent Into Madness". (*JS-NE 434*)
- 10/26/02, 0255-0319+, 6950U – a montage of materials, The Doors, a call about a listener appreciation vacation that went awry. (*JS-NE*)
- 10/26/02, 0400-0453, 6950U – "Pirate Jesus". (*WH-IL 254*) (*JS-NE 322*)
- 10/26/02, 0455-0550, 6950U – "The Twin Poles of Eternity". (*WH-IL 254*)
- 10/26/02, 0555-0657, 6950U – "Final Descent Into Madness". (*WH-IL 254*)
- 10/27/02, 0107-0223*, 6951U – "He Who Evolved". (*WS-TN 444*) (*WH-IL 154*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/27/02, 0223-0320, 6950U – "Final Descent into Madness". (*WH-IL 154*) (*RD-PA*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/27/02, 0322, 6950U – "The Twin Poles of Eternity". (*WH-IL 154*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/27/02, 0417-0453, 6950U – mx – Doors, Urban. The ideal marriage that wasn't. (*JS-NE*)
- 10/27/02, 0850, 6950U – "The Clockwork". (*WH-IL 154*)
- 10/27/02, 0922, 6950U – "He Who Shrank". (*WH-IL 154*)
- 10/27/02, 1130, 6950U – "The Twin Poles of Eternity". Show ended with a credible impression of M'sieu Le Petomaine. (*WH-IL 154*)

KMUD (*Lone Pine*)

- 10/20/02, 0237+, 6943A – replay of a KIPM show. Weak signal. (*JS-NE*)

Radio Bingo (radiobingo@chek.com)

- 10/27/02, 0033-0125+, 6925A – more Bingo Insanity! Jimmy the Weasel sings his classics, we hear Brother Stair audio clips. (*Pse QSL FM-NH 343*) (*JS-NE 333*)

Radio Gong (None)

- 10/25/02, *2258-2314*, 6955U – mx – weird. Gong SFX, "This is Radio Gong calling!" (*AF 232*) (*JS-NE 444*)

Radio Pigmeat International (*Belfast*)

- 10/20/02, 2300-2355*, 6950A – mx – Clash, Who, Mojo Nixon, Airplane, Blondie. (*JS-NE 322*)
- 10/21/02, 0043-0100+, 6925A – repeat of 10/20/02 show. (*JS-NE*)

Radio Time Machine (*Elkhorn*)

- 10/25/02, 2314-2345, 6959U – mx – Donovan, Beatles, The Turtles. A tribute to 60's offshore Pirate station 'Radio Scotland.' (*FM-NH 222*) (*AF 232*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/26/02, *0001-0045*, 6955U – repeat of the earlier show. IDs at 0032 and 0035. (*GZ-OH 343*)

The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave (*captainronswr@yahoo.com*)

- 11/01/02, 0417-0434, 6955U – ID, email address. (*WS-TN 242*)
- 11/07/02, 0121, 6950U – mx – "Tubular Bells," Satanic stuff? (*AF 222*)
- 11/08/02, 0114-0153, 6950U – monkeys, aliens and people dressing up as each other. (*DC-IN 322*)

The Voice Of The Abnormal (*Elkhorn*)

- 10/25/02, *2322-2258*, 6955U – mx – many Halloween tunes. Ad for "Ghoul's View Cemetery". (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/26/02, 0024-0054*, 6953U – mx – Halloween-style. A Yukon Jack's Halloween special part two. Ad for "An American Werewolf In Mayberry". (*FM-NH 322*) (*AF 322*) (*JS-NE 444*)
- 10/26/02, 0341-0348, 6951U – Yukon Jack's Halloween special. (*WS-TN 444*)
- 10/26/02, 0658, 6950U – Yukon Jack's Halloween special. (*WH-IL 254*)
- 10/27/02, 0000-0002, 6950U – a repeat show. (*AF 322*) (*WH-IL 154*) (*JS-NE 434*)
- 10/27/02, *0454-0525*, 6950U – a repeat of the Halloween special. (*JS-NE*)

The Voice Of The Tiki (*Elkhorn*)

- 10/25/02, 2347-0022, 6950U – Hawaiian music from your host - Mudda Maxwell! (*FM-NH 222*) (*AF 333*) (*JS-NE 444*)

Vox America (*Belfast*)

- 11/09/02, 2034, 6950A – mx – Chicago. Host Jesse White. Racial commentary. (*AF 423*)

WAIR (*FRN/ACE*)

- 10/26/02, 2331-0002*, 6950U – All Indie Radio with their "Harpsichord 2000" show. John J. Yardbrown and his cousin Ravi hosting. (*FM-NH 222*) (*AF 322*) (*JS-NE 434*)
- 10/27/02, *0526-0548+, 6950U – mx – Hydroplane, Steinbecks. (*JS-NE 444*)

WHYP (*Providence*)

- 10/26/02, 0039-0110*, 6925A – a repeat of the "Halloween 2000" special. (*JS-NE 322*)
- 10/26/02, 0158+, 6925A – mx – "Stone Soul Brother". (*JS-NE*)
- 10/27/02, 0056, 6925A – mx – Folk-Rock. Parody of Mister Rogers. (*WH-IL 254*)
- 10/28/02, 0237, 6951A – 2002 Halloween special. Trick or Treating via teleportation. (*WS-TN 444*)
- 10/29/02, 0143, 6925A – sounded like a story with Uncle Schleckstein. Very tough copy. (*AF 211*)
- 10/31/02, 2345-0030, 6925L – Halloween special, Pirate comedy skit, Uncle Schleckstein. (*WH-IL 144*)
- 11/10/02, 0039, 6925A – mx – Warren Zevon? (*AF 322*)

WJFK (*ACE/FRN – maybe!*)

- 11/13/02, 0017-0023, 6955L – JFK and PT-109. Phonetic station ID at 0025. (*DC-IN 322*)

WMFQ (*Providence*)

- 10/26/02, 0014-0152+, 6925A – mx – Abba, Culture Club. (*JS-NE*) (*WS-TN 444*)

WMOE (*wmoe6955@yahoo.com*)

- 11/01/02, 0134-0142, 6925L – ID with email address. (*WS-TN 242*)

WMPR (*FRN*)

- 10/21/02, 0148-0228+, 6925A – another selection from "Dance Party". (*JS-NE 434*)
- 10/22/02, 0007-0045*, 6955A – mx – Techno. (*JS-NE 444*)
- 11/08/02, 0254-0320+, 6955A – mx – Techno. (*JS-NE*)
- 11/09/02, 2247-2333, 6955A – mx – Techno, Rock, OM/YL IDs as "WMPR – 6955", Tortured puppy IS. (*Pse QSL FM-NH 555*) (*AF 544*)
- 11/14/02, 0158-0315+, 6955A – mx – Techno, "My George", "Magic Mushroom". (*JS-NE 433*)
- 11/17/02, 0057-0147*, 6955A – mx – change in programming towards atmospheric jazz-like pieces. Also played King Crimson cuts. OM/YL ID w/musical background. (*JS-NE*)

WMTL (*Unknown*)

- 10/23/02, 0135-0210*, 6925A – new station, format seems to be 2 or 3 guys in free form discussion, subjects included NFL teams and an *a capella* song about Mister Rogers. IDed as "WMTL, 88.1". Reminiscent of East Cost Beer Drinker show. (*Pse QSL JS-NE 322*)
- 10/24/02, 0056-0106+, 6925A – mx – Pearl Jam. More free form frivolity. (*JS-NE*)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

UNID

- 10/28/02, 0124-0207*, 6925A – creepy SFX and mx. (*AF 433*) (*WH-IL 355*)
- 10/28/02, 00232-0235*, 6924A – talk about a discovery made when an unopened beer was left on a railroad track. Abrupt off. (*WS-TN 232*)
- 11/02/02, 0615, 6955U – mx voice, very weak. (*AF 131*)
- 11/03/02, 0112-0119*, 6925A – mx – Rock with a Devil theme. No talk. (*RD-PA*)
- 11/03/02, 1948-2003, 6955A – mx – Chicago. Rant about racial issues and political correctness. Maybe RFS? (*AF 332*)

CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE QSL

Rich D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (*RD-PA*)

Dave Carlson, 1624 West 150th Street, Rensselaer, IN 47987-8508 (*DC-IN*)

Al Fansone (*AF*)

William Hassig, 102 North Russell Street, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056-2443 (*WH-IL*)

Fred Moe, 36 West Main Street, Warner, NH 03278 (*FM-NH*)

John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104 (*JS-NE*)

Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (*WS-TN*)

George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (*GZ-OH*)

TEN (and TWENTY) YEARS AFTER...

The December, 1982 issue of the ACE newsletter carried a front cover blurb for "Static" cassette magazine from the CBM people, 17 listeners sent in reports covering 4 AM, 1 FM and 12 SW Pirate stations. (Looks like nowadays the number of stations might be a tad higher but the number of reporters is down – go figure!) Amongst those to be heard on the air were – Radio Clandestine, The Crystal Ship, Munchkin Radio, Radio Free Radio and Radio Flying Dutchman.

In December 1992, the front cover featured a Jolly Roger International QSL card and Steve Rogovich was beginning his stint as Dialogs editor. No less than 53 stations were reported and some guy named Harry Helms was writing the "Covert Corner" column! Among the stations reported were – He-Man Radio, East Coast Beer Drinker, Jolly Roger International, CSIC, Anarchy One, Down East Radio and KMCR. Looks as if SSB around 7415 was beginning to take over from AM...

RAMBLINGS

First and foremost – folks, get your logs to me by (or before) December 18th – I have vacation plans as well and if I don't get the column done by the end of that week then it ain't getting done until sometime in early January!

Oh boy, what a month it's been. Don't need any more like that one...

Last month I mentioned I was adding one of them new fangled satellite radio receivers in the car. Well, it (Sirius) is in and working very nicely. Reception's good, the choice of stations is excellent, the lack of Limbaugh, Stern and Gold Bond Medicated Foot Powder is *priceless!* All this and Sirius were real fast getting the \$75 rebate check to me as well. I can heartily recommend such a system as an alternative to the mindless drivel that's the majority of AM and FM offerings nowadays. (*Plus, chicks dig it!*)

Halloween was pretty much a bust this year – there were a few stations to be heard with holiday-specific programming but, by and large, it was a disappointment. Maybe Thanksgiving will produce a little more activity?

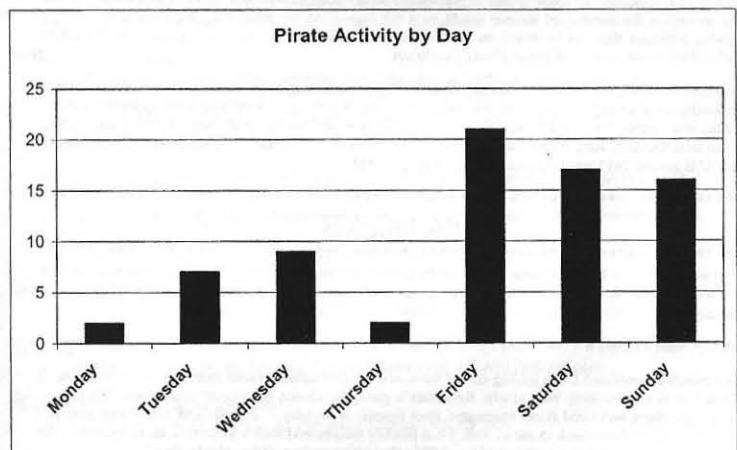
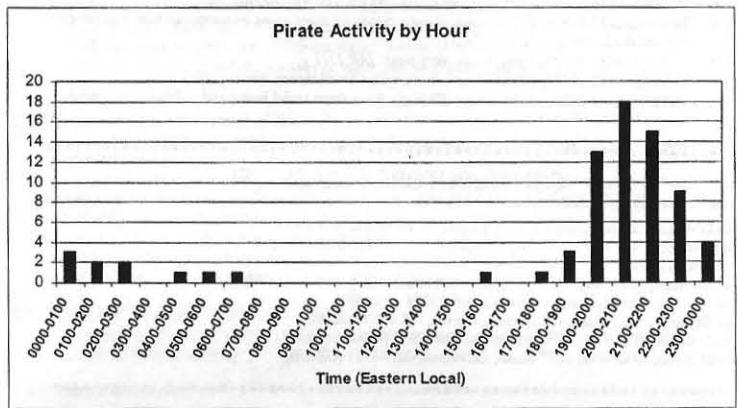
Well, this column marks the end of my second year of editing Dialogs. Amazing how time goes by. I'm still waiting for that first ACE paycheck...

March 7th and 8th, 2003, will be the dates for the 16th annual Winter SWL Fest in Kulpsville, PA. Go to <http://www.swlfest.com> for details. I've attended every one since 1992 (missed the first few) and always have a good time there. Rumor has it that this year Andy Yoder will wear *long* pants to the 'fest, the George Zeller look-alike contest has been opened to include participation by female contestants, a memorial service will be held for the Kulpsville Kitchen and, last but not least, we'll be having a "Get your picture taken with John Arthur" session scheduled! Can it get any better than that?

Have a good Christmas, folks!

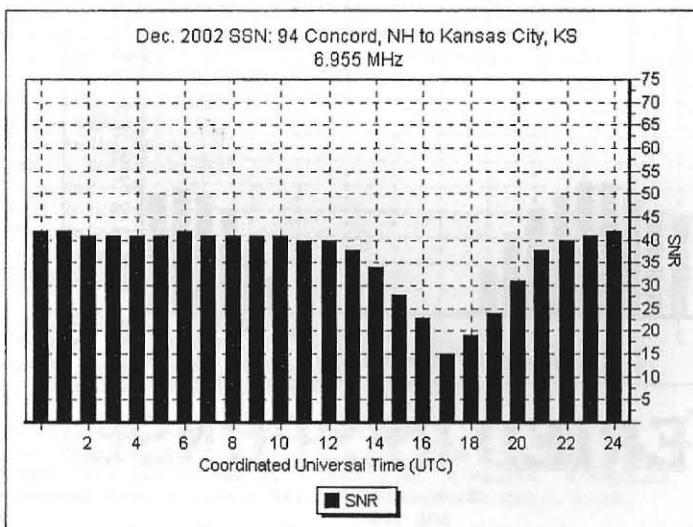
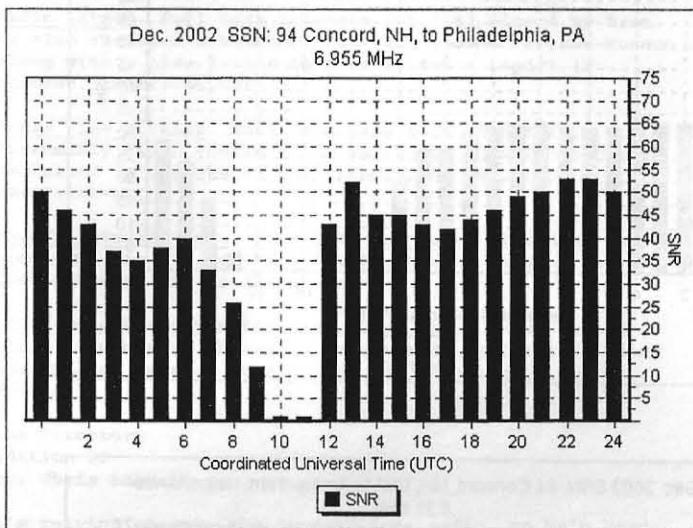
STATISTICS

Still holding true - the best nights for Pirate listening is mid evening on Friday, Saturday or Sunday.

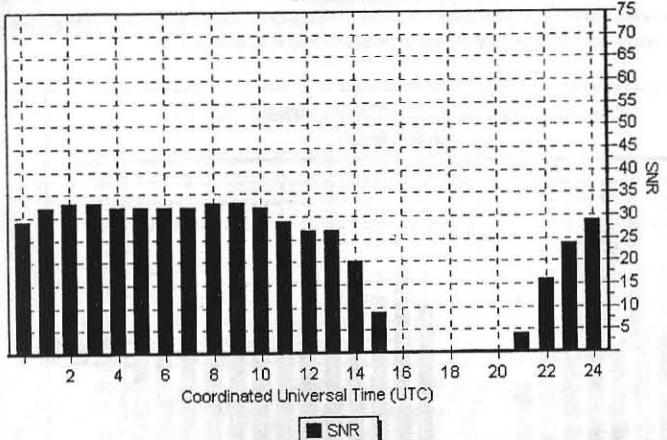


PROPAGATION

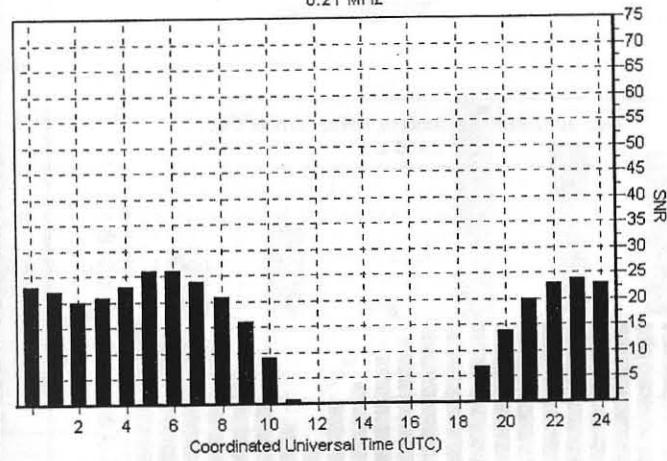
This month's sets of charts are done for the benefit of contributor Fred Moe, in Warner, NH.



Dec. 2002 SSN: 94 Concord, NH, to Los Angeles, CA
6.955 MHz



Dec. 2002 SSN: 94 Concord, NH, USA to Amsterdam, Netherlands
6.21 MHz



VERIFIED RESPONSE

CHRIS LOBDELL
BOX 146
STONEHAM, MA 02180
Email: clobdell@attbi.com

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: December 19th

Hi guys! Sorry about no column last month, but no reports mean NO column. I do want to thank ever faithful reporter John Sedlacek of Omaha, Nebraska for his report this month or there would be no column again. Thanks John. What about the rest of you?

Radio Azteca. Full data triangle QSL #787 signed by Bram. He also included a brochure for The Colorado Prison Museum along with a nice letter in 2 weeks for a report to Belfast. [Sedlacek-NE]

Radio Time Machine. Full data post card of a ship, presumably Radio Scotland, to which the show I heard was dedicated in 2 weeks to the Elkhorn, NE maildrop. [Sedlacek-NE]

WAIR/All Indie Radio. Full data post card signed by Ravi Brownyard for the Harpsicord 2000 show in about 2 weeks from Elkhorn, NE. [Sedlacek-NE]

After we printed The Directory last time, there were a bunch of updates, thanks to your input, so I'm reprinting the updated version this month. Keep sending in those updates!!

The Directory
Edition 39
by: Chris Lobdell

I'm relying on you, the fans of free radio, to help keep this up-to-date, so look it over and send me any corrections or additions that you know of! Thanks.

KEY:
BC = broadcast or broadcasting
FR = Free Radio
ot = of the
mx = music
R = Radio
RF = Radio Free
Intl = International
Svc = Service
Vo = Voice of
Vot = Voice of the
Vox = Voice
WW = Worldwide

Box 1, Belfast, NY 14711:
R Azteca, RF Euphoria, RF Speech, R Marabu (Germany), R. Pigmeat Intl, R USA, Take It Easy R, Vot Runaway Maharishi, Vox America, Vot Angry Bastard, WBIG, WDRR

Box 109, Blue Ridge Summit, PA 17214:
CKLW, CSIC, East Coast Beer Drinker, Free Hope Experience, Ground Zero R., He Man R, R Cochiguaz, R Marabu, R Neptune Universal Svc, R Pirana Intl, Vot Purple Pumpkin, WLIS.

Box 293, Merlin, ONT N0P 1W0, Canada:
Blind Faith R, CSIC, Happy Hanukkah, Laser Hot Hits, R Gemini,
R. Marabu, R Merlin Intl, R Toronto, Vo Juliet.

Box 422, Wellsville, NY 14895:
WDRR

Box 1212, Dunedin, NZ:
Southern Music R

Box 3103, Onekawa, Napier, NZ:
KIWI (NZ), R G'day (Aust), Radio Sue (NZ), Radio Eureka
Intl [AU]

Box 11522, Huntsville, AL 35814:
Vo Bizarro World, WPN

Box 28413, Providence, RI 02908:
Harold Krishna's Mx Svc, Indira Calling, Partial India R, R
Eclipse, RFM, Scream of Butterfly, Vot Runaway Maharishi,
WHYP, WMFQ, Lounge Lizard Radio

Box 69, Elkhorn, NE 68022
KIPM, Mystery Science Radio, WAIR, Voice A Da Tiki, Voice
Of The Abnormal, The Purple Nucleus Of Creation, Radio Time
Machine

Have a Great Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year!

-Chris

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by George Zeller

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2100 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@nacs.net address, with <http://www.nacs.net/~georgez> providing access to my web page.

STEVE ANDERSON ARRESTED BY FEDS

Steven Howard Anderson, a.k.a. Steve Anderson, formerly the operator of the KSMR, the longest running clandestine station in history with both a target area and a transmitter within the United States (in Pulaski County, Kentucky), was arrested Friday, November 22 in Cherokee County, North Carolina by officers of the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation. According to the Louisville *Courier Journal*, Anderson was initially held in Buncombe County Jail

in Asheville, North Carolina, pending a planned transfer to a Kentucky detention center on or about November 25, where he was scheduled to face various charges.

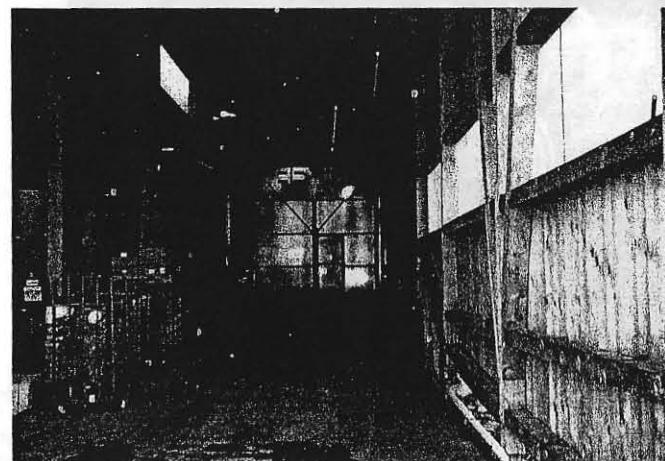
All this took place about five miles from Brasstown, North Carolina, the longtime home of Grove Enterprises and *Monitoring Times* magazine. Brasstown is actually in Clay County, North Carolina, but it is only five miles from Murphy, the county seat of Cherokee County, North Carolina. Brasstown's web site has a monthly contest with a prize of a canned opossum. If you don't believe me, check out <http://www.clayscorner.com/contest.shtml> on your internet dial. So, Anderson was not discovered in anything like what we would call an urban area.

The jail in Asheville, a newly constructed facility that was ordered to be built by a court after the old jail was found to be illegally deteriorated, has a web site that outlines procedures for visiting inmates, if you'd like to take a trip to this historic site. The URL of <http://www.buncombesheriff.org/detentioncenter.g.html> is the place to go for additional information.

We thank a variety of people for sending information to us about this story that was breaking right at deadline time for *The ACE*. These people include the original poster on rec.radio.shortwave about this story, a DXer named William Smith. Chris Lobdell, Bob Montgomery, and Artie Bigley quickly noticed that the *Courier Journal* was running daily coverage of the events.

SWITZERLAND TRANSMITTERS STILL CLOSED

You will recall that last year in *The ACE* we ran a photo of the wholesale milk barn that has been constructed on the former site of the Swiss Radio International transmitter in Lenk, Switzerland, located ten miles south of Zweizimmen, the ancestral home of the Zeller family of DXers. Once again this year, your editor visited Switzerland in early November, and although he did not discover any clandestine radio news in that country, he did come back with more photos of the notorious Lenk milk barn.



The Lenk milk barn in all its glory!

As you see here, this year we have a photo of what remains of the driveway that used to lead to the entrance to the SRI Lenk transmitter. This transmitter site was always somewhat unusual, since the transmitter was housed in an underground bunker. It now turns out that the notorious Lenk milk barn was constructed precisely above this driveway, using the cement walls of the bunker entrance as some of the foundations of the barn building. Our view here shows what remains of this driveway. The area to the

left has some milk cartons in temporary storage, while the area to the right of the door in the rear consists of some of the original cement foundations of the SRI transmitter bunker structure. The door in the rear used to lead to the transmitter itself, but it now goes to some unknown area of the newly constructed milk barn. I did not go back inside to open the door, so as to determine if SRI's Bob Zanotti was being held captive inside.

In a related matter, I also visited the site of the long-closed Schwarzenberg transmitter of Swiss Radio International. A few years ago I was given a tour of this facility by SRI engineer Roland Anderau, and I was astonished to find that the building contained one of the best collections of antique radios that I ever saw. The large majority of these old receivers were by European manufacturers, several of which I had never heard of. In addition to this astonishing collection of receivers, the Schwarzenberg transmitter facility contained an antique medium wave transmitter that was the first medium wave transmitter used in Bern. In recent years I had heard rumors in Switzerland that there were plans to convert the Schwarzenberg site into a radio museum. But, during my visit to the site in November 2002, I saw no sign that these rumors were being converted to action. Unlike in Lenk, all of the buildings in the old Schwarzenberg transmitter complex remain standing, even with a Swiss PTT sign still on the front door. But, all of this remains under lock and key behind a perimeter fence, with no admittance to the general public. I have been told by Adrian Peterson of Adventist World Radio that the old Schwarzenberg transmitter has been purchased by AWR, and is currently in use from a site in Italy.

The only thing remaining in Schwarzenberg that has even a remote connection with DXing is the Hauser's Antiques store in downtown Schwarzenberg. Since very few of us have ever seen this retail store, I'll also print a photo of what is not really the Schwarzenberg branch of DX Listening Digest.



The Swiss branch of the famed Enid, OK antiques dealer.

I did not visit DJ Stevie of **Europirate Radio 510 International** while I was in Switzerland, but Stevie has sent in e-mails since my return to the USA, and he says hello to his many North American DX friends, many of whom he met during various visits to the Winter SWL Festival in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania. Stevie reminds us that you can still check out the web site of his station at <http://www.radio510.org> on the internet. It contains no clandestine radio information at all, but it does profile Stevie's europirate in some detail, including their current schedule via a relay in Italy.

IRAQ CLANDESTINE

Given all of the continuing focus on a potential invasion of Iraq by the United States, there remains some interest in the DX community in Iraqi clandestine stations. NASWA Executive Director Rich D'Angelo notes that he had a November 20 logging on 7100 kHz of the Voice of Islamic Revolution in Iraq from *0326-0402 UTC. He says that after a sign-on with instrumental music there quickly was an ID followed by march music and other vocal music. The rest of the show consisted of brief talks in Arabic as well as a news broadcast. Rich reports that the parallel frequency of 9535 kHz was fair in a mess of QRM interference. Given Rich's logging, ACE members might want to check out these 41 and 31 meter frequencies for this particular Iraqi clandestine.

The CRW summary of this one says that it is operated by the "Shii Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SCIRI), headed by Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim in support of the Shiite uprising in southern Iraq." CRW says that the station is "also affiliated with the Islamic Da'wah Party and the Islamic Revolutionary Army for the Liberation of Iraq. Also according to CRW and clandestine radio com, the group operating this station "is believed to receive support from Iran. Although approached by US officials, (this) group refuses to receive American aid. Transmitters for the station are allegedly located in Mashad and Sirjan, Iran.

As Martin Schoech points out in *Clandestine Radio Watch* #120, reporter Tom Bowman pointed out in the November 14 edition of the *Baltimore Sun* that the Pentagon is currently planning "what could be the most widespread and complex psychological operations campaign mounted by the American military since the Vietnam War." This plan is contingent upon an American invasion of Iraq. Targeted radio messages are specifically a part of this plan. So, should the United States invade Iraq, it would be a virtual certainty that there will be new clandestine radio activity associated with it. Thus, it will be an excellent idea to pay close attention to the day to day news during the next several weeks.

The article in the *Sun* said, "Sophisticated broadcasting planes operated by the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania National Guard, together with ground transmitters in Kuwait and elsewhere, would be used to transmit anti-Saddam programming to the Iraqi populace, officials said." These Pennsylvania National Guard planes are well known by the DX community from their past airborne clandestine transmissions in Afghanistan, Grenada, and other locations. During peacetime, some DXers have even visited the base in Harrisburg that houses the aircraft used as transmitters during wartime.

We often have mentioned *Clandestine Radio Watch* in this column. If you're a serious clandestine DXer, this publication is an absolutely essential information resource. You can download the current issue and back issues of this amazing publication at the web site of clandestine radio com, still located at <http://www.clandestineradio.com/> on the internet. As daily events unfold, there will be many thousands of people checking out this web site, including all of us who are clandestine DXers.

THANKS!

The input of ACE members and other DXers is vitally important to this column, and to all other ACE columns. We thank Martin Schoech (Germany), Chris Lobdell (Massachusetts), and Artie Bigley, (Texas), Bob Montgomery (Pennsylvania), Adrian Peterson (Indiana), Rich D'Angelo (Pennsylvania), and George Zeller (Ohio) for providing material. Next month we all hope to hear from YOU by December 15 for the January 2003 *Clandestine Profile*.

Covert Comms

By Tom Severt

307 Granby
Frontenac, KS 66763-2440
n2uhc@yahoo.com

Recently I have noticed a few illegal radio operators operating on or near 6990 LSB nightly beginning around 0100 UTC. When I first heard these "outbenders," or bootleg operators there, I thought they were just a couple of pirates chatting back & forth. One of them even ID'd as "Radio Free Texas."

After monitoring them for some time, it became apparent that they were not pirates as we know them, but simply unlicensed operators that showed up there to have a place to talk. I wouldn't even mention them if it weren't for the fact that they appear to be communications for a militia group in Texas.

Militia groups have used frequencies for communications just outside the ham bands for inter-group communication for about the past ten years or so. The lower edge of 20 meters has been known to harbor some militia activity, as well as 6660 and possibly around 6200-6300 kHz.

The 6990 group is very informal, and most members of the net are apparently from Texas. They don't use any callsigns except for the one using "Radio Free Texas," but prefer to use first names. There are roughly six or seven regular members of the group. At least two of them are in Texas, one near Dallas and the other farther south. Communications might sound like what you'd hear on the CB bands, but slightly more interesting.

It's obvious that the group does have militia ties, or at the very least are strong supporters of militia groups. Their discussions usually lean toward anti-government feelings and some of the conspiracy theories popular with "patriot" groups. For example, I once heard one of them talking about Satanic cults in his county in Texas, who had entire cities located underground and regularly abduct people to use as sacrifices during Satanic rituals. It's doubtful they are all playing with a full deck.

I haven't heard them using anything I could definitely consider as a code or cipher, but they have used cryptic communications that when I was in the military we referred to "talk-around." It's kind of like the way you'd talk around small children when you don't want them to know what you're talking about. Two people "in the know" would understand, but a third party might not.

The group regularly uses 6990 LSB, but I have heard them referring to using 13950 USB. They also have another frequency they constantly refer to as "primary," but I have not located that frequency. I don't believe that it is 13950 since "primary" seems to be used for shorter range communications. For example, if conditions aren't that great, they'll say, "go to primary." For two stations in Texas maybe one or two hundred miles apart, it makes sense that they would use a lower frequency to make use of groundwave propagation. My guess is that it's around the lower or upper edge of the 80 meter ham band. The upper edge in the 4 MHZ band is filled with MARS and maritime stations, so it's likely they use a frequency below 80 meters, around 3400-3500.

If you enjoy the stuff you hear on WWCR & similar stations, you'll enjoy tuning these guys in.

It is with regret that I mention that this will be my last "Covert Comms" column. I have found it increasingly difficult lately to find the time to meet a deadline for a column every month. Also, my interests in radio have been shifting to other areas and I am finding it hard to devote more time to writing about numbers stations. I rarely even find time to do much shortwave listening these days, let alone hunting for numbers transmissions. I have devoted the past five years to writing this column, and now find it time to move on to other pursuits. I have enjoyed contributing what I could to the hobby, but now must move on to other things.

With that, the job of writing a monthly numbers column for the *ACE* is now open. If anyone is interested, please contact Harry Helms or John T. Arthur and let them know that you're interested. I'm sure they'll be glad to have you.



FCC Form 833
April 1976

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WARNING: UNLICENSED RADIO OPERATION

CERTIFIED MAIL NUMBER _____
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

August 28, 1978
Date Issued

MICHAEL M

MINNEAPOLIS MINNESOTA
55402

On AUGUST 28, 1978, official of the Federal Communications Commission noted the following condition(s) regarding the SHOUTWAVE BROADCAST radio station on at:
(TRANSMITTER LOCATION)

- 1. At the time of the inspection, a valid radio station license was not in evidence for inspection. Operation of the station without proper Commission authorization is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 2. At the time of the inspection, a valid radio operator license or permit was not in evidence for inspection. Operation of such a station by unlicensed personnel is a violation of Section 318 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 3. At the time of the transmission on 5350 kHz, there was no record that the station was operating under a valid radio station license. Operation of the station without proper Commission authorization is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.
- 4. At the time of the transmission on , the station was being operated by an individual not holding the requisite operator license or permit, as revealed by operator statement on reverse of FCC Form 793. Operation of such a station by unlicensed personnel is a violation of Section 318 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

You are hereby warned that operation of the transmitting apparatus without a valid radio station authorization and/or operator license constitutes violation of the above mentioned sections of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and could subject the owner, operator, or both, to the severe penalties provided. Unlicensed operation of this radio station should be discontinued immediately.

Any statement you care to submit should be sent to the address below and it will be associated with the file on this matter. Application forms if not attached hereto may be obtained from the local FCC field office.

When delivered in person, this warning must be acknowledged. _____
8-28-78
Received by _____ Date _____

Roger P. Carlson
Issuing Officer
Federal Communications Commission
316 NORTH ROBERT ST
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
55101

(The August 1973 edition of this form may still be used.)

(SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNICATIONS ACT)

A classic bit of pirate radio history: the actual FCC "bust notice" issued to the Voice of the Voyager operators on

August 28, 1978.

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses. Be sure to check the mailing label for your membership expiration date!

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Check the expiration date on
your label!